

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CPR-02 M-03 A-01 SCA-01 VO-03 SS-15

NSC-10 SSO-00 NSCE-00 PM-07 RSC-01 PRS-01 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 EB-11 FAA-00 RSR-01 /085 W

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P 131315Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0285

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 0902

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR ETRN LY

SUBJ: VISAS FOR LIBYAN FAA TRAINEES

REF: STATE 131678

1. POST RECOMMENDS AGAINST ISSUING VISAS TO THESE
OFFICIAL TRAINEES UNTIL SUCH TIME AS LARG LIFTS VISA
AND ENTRY RESTRICTIONS ON USG OFFICIALS.

2. ARGUMENT THAT U.S. HAS INTEREST IN AIR SAFETY
LIBYAN FIR IS CERTAINLY VALID, BUT FUTURE OF THIS
POST IS MUCH WEIGHTIER CONSIDERATION. IF THERE WERE
A PRACTICABLE WAY TO TRADE
OFF VISAS WITH LARG, WE
WOULD NOT BE OPPOSED TO TRYING. FACT IS, HOWEVER,
THAT NEARLY TOTAL LACK OF COORDINATION IN LARG MAKES

"DEALS" OF THIS TYPE VERY PROBLEMATIC AT BEST.
WOULD BE OPPOSED TO TRYING IN THIS CASE, AS ONLY
LIKELY RESULT WOULD BE TO CONVEY APPEARANCE WE ARE
HURTING AND ABOUT TO CAVE GENERALLY.

3. HAVE ALSO CONSIDERED THE COMMERCIAL ARGUMENT IN
FAVOR OF GRANTING THESE VISAS, I.E. ENCOURAGING LARG
PURCHASES FROM U.S. OF EQUIPMENT FOR AIR CONTROL, SAFETY,
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MAINTENANCE AND EVEN AIRCRAFT. THERE NO DOUBT THAT

LARG IN PROCESS OF ORDERING FURTHER EQUIPMENT TO TUNE OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS. HOWEVER, SEEMS U.S. FIRMS ARE EITHER IN ON GROUND FLOOR FOR THESE ITEMS ALREADY OR ARE EXPLORING THE MARKET, E.G. JOE WALDSCHMITT OF PAGE COMMUNICATIONS, WHO CALLED ON CHARGE JULY 9. HIHAR AIRCRAFT, WE NOW BETTER INFORMED THAN EVER (SEE TRIPOLI 0727) THAT LAA PLANS TO PURHCASE THREE BOEING 727'S TO REPLACE ITS THREE CARAVELLES. ACCORDING EARL EDWARDS, WHO RECENTLY LEFT FAA WASHINGTON TO JOIN ICAO, AND WHO ALSO CALLED ON CHARGE JULY 9, THIS PLAN IS FIRM AND FILS ARE SET, I.E. ABOUT \$15 MILLION ARE ALLOCATED FOR THE PURCHASE.

4. OTHER SIDE OF THE ARGUMENT IS OF COURSE THAT LARG HAS NOT GIVEN AN INCH ON VISAS FOR AMERICAN OFFICIALS OR THEIR DEPENDENTS. I CANNOT IN GOOD CONSCIENCE RECOMMEND WE GIVE A LITTLE WHEN MY PERSONNEL ARE, OR SHORTLY WILL BE, DUE FOR TRANSFER BUT ARE HELD HERE, AND CANNOT TAKE LEAVE OUT OF COUNTRY BECAUSE THEY CANNOT GET BACK, AND CANNOT RECEIVE VISITS FROM MEMBERS OF THEIR IMMEDIATE FAMILIES, E.G. THREE CHILDREN OF MY CONSUL, WHO HAVE NO OTHER HOME TO JOIN FOR THE SUMMER VACATION. THIS IS NOT THE TIME TO WEAKEN OUR ARGUMENT THAT WE SHOULD RECEIVE NORMAL TREATMENT.

5. FINALLY, WE SHOULD BE REASONABLY CONSISTENT. WE HAVE INFORMED DAVID MIZE OF AFME THAT I DO NOT APPROVE OF VISAS FOR AGECE TRAINEES BECAUSE THEY ARE LARG OFFICIALS. HE APPARENTLY ACCEPTS THIS AS A CONSIDERED DECISION. LARG TOO MUST UNDERSTAND WE HAVE DRAWN A LINE AGAINST LARG OFFICIALS AS SUCH, EXCEPT FOR REPS AT UN ORGANIZATIONS, BECAUSE LARG ITSELF STARTED VISA WAR AGAINST USG OFFICIALS, ALONG WITH ALL OTHERS AFFECTED BY TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS.
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